WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Opening of Weather Channel

†1320. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that Government is considering to start a 24 hours Weather Channel;

(b) if so, by when it would be started; and

(c) whether networking of all the weather offices of the country would be done for this channel; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The goverment is planning to launch a 6 hour weather channel by next year which would be upgraded to 12 hour by 2009 and 24 hour by 2010

(c) Yes Sir. The weather offices in the country are being networked for dissemination of real time meteorological observations and weather forecast between them and India Meteorological Department (IMD) Headquarters. This network will also be used by the proposal weather channel.

Food processing units in Karnataka

1321. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases for opening new units for food processing in Karnataka which are pending for clearance with Government; and

(b) by when each of them is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) There are fifty applications for setting up/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries in the State of Karnataka which have been pending. This includes fourteen applications in the Rice Milling Sector, eight in Oil Sector, twenty two in the Fruit and Vegetable Processing, three in Consumer Industries, two in Bakery Sector and one in the Dairy processing sector. Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, the pending applications are being sent to the concerned banks, from which the units have taken term loan, for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are also being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units.

Funds for cold storage facilities

1322. DR. K, MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi